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FM AMCONSUL Leningrad  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2510  
INFO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 3048  
RUFHKK/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE 1442  
BT  
C O N F I D E N T I A L Leningrad 03052

DEPT FOR EUR/SOV  
HELSINKI PASS TO CG MAGEE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: SHUM, CASC, UR (SEGAL, SHEILA)(ARONCHICK, JUDITH)  
SUBJECT: AMCITS DETAINED AFTER REFUSENIK VISIT

TWO AMERICAN CITIZENS, SHEILA SEGAL AND JUDITH ARONCHICK OF PHILADELPHIA, WERE DETAINED BY LENINGRAD POLICE YESTERDAY FOR ABOUT THREE HOURS. BOTH WOMEN WERE STOPPED BY PLAIN CLOTHES MILITIA AS THEY TRIED TO VISIT YAKOV GORODETSKY, A WELL-KNOWN LENINGRAD REFUSENIK. ALTHOUGH THE AMCITS ADVISED CONSULATE OFFICERS THAT THEY IMMEDIATELY ASKED TO BE ALLOWED TO CALL THE CONSULATE GENERAL, PERMISSION TO DO SO WAS NOT GRANTED UNTIL THEY HAD BEEN DETAINED FOR AN HOUR. TWO CONSULATE OFFICERS WENT TO THE POLICE STATION AND WERE PRESENT DURING QUESTIONING AND WHILE THE WOMEN'S HANDBAGS WERE SEARCHED. BOTH WERE THEN RELEASED WITHOUT BEING CHARGED AND WERE TO LEAVE MOSCOW AT 0900 LOCAL TIME TODAY (DEC. 19) ON KLM TO AMSTERDAM. DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED IN A FOLLOW-UP CABLE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION AND REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE.  
ALLIN  
END OF MESSAGE

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